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Subject: Renegade vs. Real World

Posted by [Anonymous](#) on Mon, 24 Jun 2002 09:53:00 GMT

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I am so pleased to have participated in this discussion. For the most part, all points have been made intelligently. It IS possible to have differing viewpoints, yet refrain from descending into flaming and namecalling. One response to the gentleman from Ireland. I do not believe that Ireland has the religious freedom the US does, but that is probably because I am defining it differently than you. In the USA, we have no official or state-sponsored/supported religion. I believe that Ireland's official church is Roman Catholic (if I am wrong please correct me...gently) just as Germany's is Lutheran, England's is Anglican, and Japan's is Shinto. To me, religious freedom also means that the government does not favor one over another. BTW, this is not Catholic-bashing or religious bashing of any sort. I am Roman Catholic myself! A list of my favorite countries other than the USA that I love because of the general mindset of the people and/or the freedoms they enjoy. I will NEVER bash or denigrate any of these: Canada, Britain, Ireland, Scotland (i know, i know - it's part of Britain, but I love it!!), Australia, Austria, Costa Rica, Germany, Hong Kong (i know it's part of China now, but they will never lose their uniqueness), Taiwan, Japan, S. Korea, Monaco, Italy, Poland, Bahamas, Tazmania. Sorry if I left out some that I can't think of. Special Honorable Mention goes to Russia and Ukraine - they are trying so hard to make the transition from communism to capitalism. Russia especially gets kudos for implementing a flat-tax income tax structure before even we Yanks have gotten it figured out!!

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